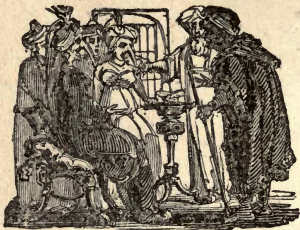


THE  
STORY OF  
THE CAT'S TAIL.



DERBY:  
PRINTED BY AND FOR H. MOZLEY.  
*Price Three-pence.*



“ None were suffered to be about him but such only whose noses had some resemblance to his ; and the courtiers, to ingratiate themselves with her majesty, and the prince her son, made it a constant practice, several times a-day, to pull their little children by the nose, to make it longer : but it was lost labour ; they had but very short noses when compared with Prince Desire.”

THE  
STORY OF  
THE CAT'S TAIL,  
AND THE  
*LONG NOSE.*



TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
The Fisherman and the Traveller.



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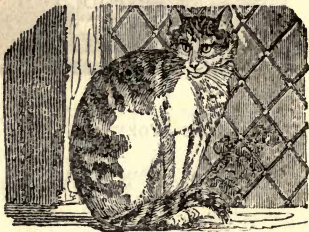




THE STORY OF  
THE CAT'S TAIL.

THERE was formerly a king extremely enamoured of a princess; but being enchanted, her resolution was never to marry. He went and consulted a fairy what he should do to gain the love of this princess. You know, says the fairy to him, that she has a huge cat, of which she is extremely fond; she is to marry the person that shall be nimble enough to tread on the cat's tail.

'That's no very difficult matter, said the prince to himself. He took leave of the fairy, determined to crush the cat's tail to pieces, rather than fail treading on it, and hastened to his mistress's palace. Here puss met him with her



back up as usual: the king up with his foot; but when he thought himself sure, puss turned about so nimbly, that he missed his aim. A whole week was he watching an occasion to tread on this fatal tail; it seemed full of quicksilver, being ever in motion; at length his majesty happily surprised

puss napping, and trod with all his strength on its tail. Puss awoke, and mewed horribly; then suddenly assumed the form of a large man; and fixing his eyes full of anger on the prince, he said, Well, thou shalt marry the princess, since thou hast broken the charm which hindered it; but I will be revenged: thou shalt have a son, who shall always be unhappy till the moment he finds out that his nose is too long; and if ever thou publish this menace, thou shalt die that instant. Although the king was affrighted at the sight of this gigantic man, who was a sorcerer, he could not forbear laughing at his threats. As to the great length of my son's nose, thought the king, it is what he will see or feel if he has either eyes or hands.

The sorcerer disappeared; and the king went and waited on the princess, who agreed to marry him; but he did not live long with her, dying at the



end of eight months. A month after, the queen was brought to bed of a prince, who was named Desire. He had large blue eyes, the finest in the world ; a pretty little mouth, but such a nose, so large that it covered half the face. The queen, at the sight of this monstrous nose, was quite inconsolable ; but her ladies all told her, that the nose was not so large as she imagined ; it was a Roman nose ; and history made it appear that all heroes had large noses. The queen, who doted on her son, was charmed with his talk ; and by her frequently looking at Desire,



the nose ceased to be so big. The prince was brought up with great care; and as soon as he could speak, all manner of ill-natured stories were told before him of those that had short noses. None were suffered to be about him



but such only whose noses had some resemblance to his; and the courtiers, to ingratiate themselves with her majesty, and the prince her son, made it a constant practice, several times a-day, to pull their little children by the nose, to make it longer: but it was lost labour; they had but very short noses

when compared with Prince Desire. As he grew up, he was instructed in history; and every great prince, or beautiful princess, spoken of, had to be sure a large nose. His whole chamber was hung with pictures of persons drawn with long noses; and Desire became so accustomed to think a long nose very beautiful, that for a kingdom he would not have wished his shorter by a hair's breadth. When he came



to be twenty years of age, and it was thought proper to marry him, he was shown the portraits of several princesses,

and was charmed with that of Mignone, the daughter of a powerful monarch, and heiress of several kingdoms: but Desire did not so much as think of these, so much was he taken up with her beauty. This princess, though lovely in his eyes, had a little turned-up-nose, that became her most prodigiously, but brought the courtiers under the greatest difficulties; they had been so long used to ridicule diminutive short noses, that sometimes they inadvertently dropped a jest on that of the princess; but Desire was in serious earnest on this head, and two courtiers were forbid the court for speaking disrespectfully of Mignone's nose: others took warning by this example, and became more cautious; and one among the rest told the prince, that a man could not be a comely man without a large nose, but that it was the reverse with regard to female beauty; and that he had been informed by a Greek

scholar, who spoke Greek, that he had read in a Greek manuscript, that the beautiful Cleopatra had a nose with the tip turned up. This pleasing tale was rewarded with a present of great value; and a splendid embassy was despatched to ask Mignone in marriage. The princess was betrothed to him; and he was so impatient to see her, that he went above nine miles to meet her;



but as he advanced to kiss her hand, the sorcerer was seen to descend, who carried off the princess before his eyes,

and left him inconsolable. Desire took a resolution never to see his kingdom again till he had found Mignone. He would not allow any of his court to attend him; he got upon a stout horse, gave him the bridle, and let him take his own way. The horse came upon a vast plain, where, on the whole day's journey, not a house was to be seen; both the prince and horse were nearly famished. At last, in the evening, he got sight of a cavern, where a little light appeared; he went in, and found a little aged woman, who seemed to be above an hundred. She put on her spectacles to look at the prince; but her nose was so short, that she was a good while before she could fix them. The prince and fairy (for she was one) burst out a-laughing with looking at each other, and both together cried out, O what a queer nose! Not so queer as yours neither, said Desire to the fairy; but, Madam, let the noses be such as

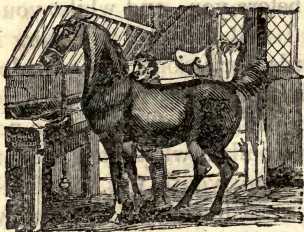
they are, and now be so kind as to give me something to eat, for I am almost starved, and my poor horse too. Ay, with all my heart, answered the fairy ;



though you have a comical nose, you are still the son of my best friend : I could not love my own brother better than I did the king your father ; he had a very pretty nose. And pray what's wanting to mine ? said Desire. Oh ! nothing, replied the fairy ; indeed there is only too much of it : but no matter ; a man may be a very worthy man, and yet have too long a nose.

But, as I was telling you, I had a great kindness for your father ; in those days I received many a visit from him : and now that I talk of those days, do you know that I was extremely pretty at that time ? And he would tell me so : I must give you an account of the conversation which passed betwixt us the last time he saw me. Ah, Madam, I shall hear you with great pleasure, said Desire, when I have supped : pray consider that I have eaten nothing this whole day. Poor lad, said the fairy, he is in the right on't ; it was quite out of my mind. Well, I will set your supper before you ; and whilst you are eating, I will despatch my story in a few words, for I don't love your long-winded stories ; too long a tongue is more intolerable than too long a nose : and I remember what made me more admired in my youth, was, that I talked but little ; at least they used to say so to the queen my mother ; for, such as

you see me, I am no less than the daughter of a great king. My father  
——Your father, said the prince, interrupting her, ate when he was hungry. No question of that, returned the fairy, and you shall sup out of hand; I was only going to tell you, that my father  
——I will hear nothing till I have eaten, said the prince, who was going to be in a passion. However, having need of the fairy, he cooled, and said mildly to her, The pleasure I shall have in hearing you, I know, may make me forget that I am hungry;





but my poor horse, that won't understand you, wants feeding. The fairy bridled up at this compliment. You shall wait no longer; and calling her servants, she said, You are very polite; and for all the enormous size of your nose, you are very amiable. Deuce take the old hag, with my nose, said the prince to himself; one would think my mother had robbed her of what is wanting in her's: were I not so sharp set, I would leave this clatterer, that imagines herself so sparing of her words. One must be foolish indeed, not to know one's own faults: thus it is to be born a princess; flatterers have spoiled her, and brought her to believe that she talked but little. Whilst the prince was taken up with these thoughts, the maids were spreading the cloth; and the prince wondered at the fairy, who asked them a thousand questions, merely for talking sake: above all, he took notice of one of her women, who,

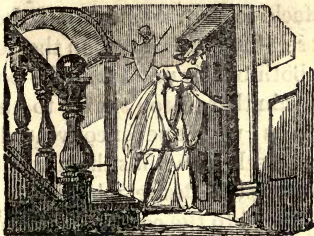
from every thing she saw, took an occasion to praise her mistress's prudence. Egad, thought the prince, as he was eating, I am glad I came hither; this instance shows how wise I was in not listening to flatterers; those wretches praise us with imprudence; they either conceal our faults from us, or make them into perfections: for my part, I never will be duped by them; no, thank God, I am no stranger to my defects. Poor Desire honestly believed, and was not aware that they who had praised his nose made a jest of him, as the fairy's woman did of her; for the prince saw her more than once turn about and laugh; as to himself, he said not a word, but ate most heartily.—Prince, said the fairy to him, when he had almost his fill, pray turn a little aside; the shadow of your nose really hinders me from seeing what is on my plate.—Come, now let us talk of your father: I used to go to his court when he was

but a little boy; but it is now forty years since I retired to this solitude. Tell me a little what is the life now at court; are the ladies still fond of gadding? In my time, they used to be seen the same day at the assembly, ring, plays, balls.—Bless me! what a long nose yours is! I shall never use myself to bear the sight of it. Let me beg of you, Madam, answered Desire, to give over talking of my nose; it is such as it is; what is it to you? I am easy, I would not have it shorter; noses are not left to our choice. Oh, poor Desire, said the fairy, I see this frets you: that is not my design; on the contrary, I am a friend of yours: I will serve you; but really I can't but be shocked at your nose; however, I will take care not to speak any more of it, and shall even endeavour to fancy that you are flat-nosed, though in truth your nose would furnish out enough for three common noses. Desire having supped, grew so en-



raged at the endless prattle of the fairy about his nose, that he sprung on his horse, and went off. Wherever he passed, he thought the people mad; all talked of his nose; but yet he had been used to hear so much about the comeliness of his nose, that he could never bring himself to think that it was too long. The aged fairy, who intended to do him a real service, took it into her head, notwithstanding his late displeasure, to confine Mignone in a crystal palace, and placed it in the prince's road. Desire, transported with joy, immedi-

ately endeavoured to break it; but it was past his strength.—Having lost all hopes, he was for drawing near, that he might at least speak to the princess, who, on the other side, held out her hand towards the crystal wall. He



would fain have kissed the hand; but whichever way he turned, the prominence of his nose kept his mouth out of reach. He then discovered, for the first time, the extraordinary length of his nose; and laying hold of it with his hand to put it aside, It must be owned, he said, that my nose is really

too long. At this the palace instantly fell to pieces ; and the aged fairy, who held Mignone by the hand, said to the prince, Own yourself greatly obliged to me ; all my talking to you about your nose would never have brought you to perceive the defect, had it not proved an obstacle to your wishes : and thus it is that self-love casts a veil on the deformities both of the mind and the body ; it is in vain that reason strives to unveil them to us ; we are never convinced, till that same self-love finds them contrary to its interest. Desire, whose nose was now reduced to the common size, made his advantage of this moral ; he and Mignone were married, and lived very happily together a great many years.



## THE

## FISHERMAN AND THE TRAVELLER.

THERE was once a man whose whole estate was a poor hut on the side of a small river, and he got his livelihood by fishing; but as there were but few fish in the river, he earned no great matter, and the most of his fare was bread and water; yet he was content with his poverty, for he wished for no more than he had. One day he took a fancy to see the town, and determined

to go the next day. As his thoughts were running on this journey, he met a traveller, who asked him how far it was to a village, where he might find lodging and a bed. 'Twelve miles,' answered the fisherman, and it is very late; if you will take up with my cottage to-night, you are heartily welcome. The traveller accepted the offer; and the fisherman, who was willing to give him the best entertainment he could, lighted a fire to fry some small fish. As he was getting supper ready, he sung, laughed, and seemed to be in high glee. How happy are you, said his guest, who can be so merry! I would give all I am worth in the world to be as cheerful as you are. And what hinders you? said the fisherman. My mirth costs me nothing, and I never had any reason to grieve. Are you under any great trouble, that you cannot be merry? Alas, replied the traveller, all the world looks



upon me as the happiest of men. I was in trade, and grew very rich, but had not a moment's rest. I was always under fears that those I trusted would break in my debt, that my goods would spoil, and that the ships I had at sea



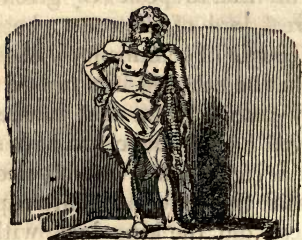
would be lost; so I gave over trading, to try if I could be more at ease; and I bought a place at court. At the very first I had the good fortune to please the prince; I became his favourite, and I thought that I was now going to be happy; but I soon found that I was more the prince's slave than his fa-

avourite. Every moment my own inclinations and mind were to be crossed to follow his. He loved hunting; I loved rest; but yet was obliged all day long to scour the woods with him; I returned to the palace quite spent, and desired nothing more than to lie down and rest. No; that was not to be: the king's mistress gave a ball or an enter-



tainment; I was sure to be invited; it was not out of any regard to me, but to make her court to the king. I went though quite mad within myself; but his majesty's favour was some comfort to me. About a fortnight ago, he took

it into his head to speak very graciously to a great lord of the court: he gave him a couple of commissions, and told him, that he believed him to be a very worthy man.—From that moment I perceived I was undone, and have since passed several nights without sleep.—But, said the fisherman, interrupting his guest, did the king look with indifference upon you, and did his affection for you seem to cool? Quite the contrary, answered the man; the king showed me more favour than usual; but pray reflect that I was no more the only one he loved, and that all the world said this lord was to be a second favourite: you cannot but think that this is not to be suffered; and indeed I had like to have died with vexation the night before last: I retired to my chamber quite dejected; and when I was alone, I burst into tears. On a sudden, I saw a big man, with a very agreeable countenance, who said to me,



Azael, I pity thy distress; dost thou desire to be easy? renounce the love of riches and the thirst of honour. Alas, my lord, said I to this man, I wish it with all my heart; but by what means can I bring this about? Leave the court, said he, and go for two days along the first road you find; the folly of a man prepares a sight for thee, which is able to cure thee for ever of ambition. After the two days' walk, come back the same way, and believe firmly, that a cheerful and easy life depends merely on yourself. I have already walked a whole day, as he directed, and to-morrow

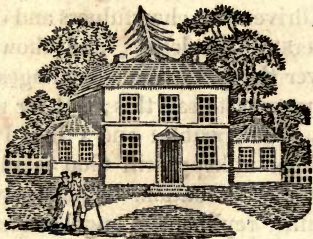
I shall do the like, but can hardly dare to hope for the quiet he has promised me. The fisherman having heard this story, could not forbear wondering at the folly of this ambitious man, who made his happiness depend on the words and looks of a prince. I shall be heartily glad to entertain you at your return, and to hear that you are cured, said he to the traveller; despatch your journey, and in two days' time let me see you again in my cottage. I am also for a journey; I have never been in town, and I fancy I shall be hugely diverted with the bustle that is met with there. That's an ill thought, said the traveller; since you are now happy, why will you seek to be miserable? Your cottage at present suffices you: but when you see the palaces of the great ones, you will then think it but a sorry hole. You are satisfied with your clothes, because they cover you; but your heart will ache when you



have seen the rich apparel of the great and wealthy. Sir, said the fisherman to his guest, you talk very well; make use of these fine reasons, not to be vexed yourself when others are taken notice of or spoken to. The world swarms with people who advise others, and at the same time cannot govern themselves. The traveller made no reply, as it is not civil to contradict people in their own houses; and the next day he went on his journey, as the fisherman began his. Two days after, Azael, who had met with nothing extraordinary, returned to the cottage :

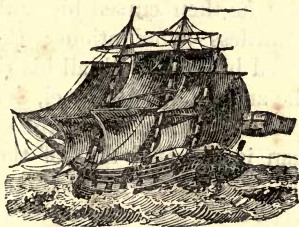
he found the fisherman sitting before his door, his head resting on one hand, and his eyes fixed on the ground. What are you thinking of, said Azael? I think that I am very unfortunate, answered the fisherman: what have I done to God, that I should be so poor, whilst there is such numbers so very rich and happy? At that instant, the personage who had ordered Azael to walk two days, appeared; and he was an angel. Why didst thou not follow Azael's advice? said he to the fisherman: the sight of the pomp and state of the town, has given birth to covetousness and ambition in thy heart; these have driven out cheerfulness and quiet. Moderate thy desires, and thou wilt recover those valuable advantages. It is very easy to say this; but for me to do it, is impossible: and I find I shall continue unhappy till God is pleased to alter my situation. The loss would be thine, replied the angel; take my

word for it, and wish only for what thou hast. Talk on, returned the fisherman; you shall never hinder me from wishing for another situation. God, answered the angel, grants in his anger the wishes of the ambitious; but it is to punish them. And what concern is it of yours? said the fisherman; if only wishing would do, your threats would give me very little uneasiness. Since thou art resolved on thy own ruin, said the angel, I agree to it: thou art at liberty to wish for three things; God will grant them. The fisherman immediately wished that his hut might





be turned into a magnificent palace; which was instantly done, as he wished. The fisherman, after admiring his fine palace, wished, that the river before his palace-gate might be changed into a large sea; and immediately this wish was fulfilled. There remained a third wish; and after musing a while, he wished his little boat might be changed into a fine ship, laden with gold and



diamonds: at the sight of the ship, he immediately ran on board to gaze at the riches of which he was now possessed; but he was scarcely in it when



a great storm arose. The fisherman wished himself ashore, but it was impossible: he then cursed his ambition with fruitless lamentations; the sea swallowed him up, with all his riches; and the angel said to Azael, let this example make thee wise; the end of this man is generally that of the ambitious. The court where thou livest at present is a sea famed for storms and wrecks: whilst it is yet in thy power, make the shore; the day will come that thou shalt wish thyself there, without power to reach it. Azael, frightened at what he had seen, pro-

mised to obey the angel, and kept his word: he left the court, and went and lived in the country; where he married a young woman who had more virtue than beauty or fortune. Instead of seeking to increase his great riches, he now only minded the enjoying his wealth with moderation, and distributed what remained to the poor. He then saw himself happy and contented; and not a day passed but he returned God thanks for curing him of avarice and ambition, which till then had infected all the pleasures of his life.

FINIS.

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